Commission has decided to continue with the Expert Group methodology.

Increased size of administration

†*106. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the size of administration has increased over the years;

(b) if so, the number of posts of level of Cabinet Minister, Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretary that increased during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and first 10 months of 1999-2000; and

(c) the annual additional expenditure on the country caused due to appointments made against such increased posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) The number of sanctioned (civilian) posts in the Central Government as on 31st March, 1996, 31st March, 1997 and 31st March, 1998 was 42.18 lakhs, 42.18 lakhs and 41.93 lakhs respectively. There was a marginal decrease of the order of about 25,000 in the number of sanctioned posts as on 31st March, 1998 compared to 31st March, 1996. Against the above mentioned sanctioned strength, the actual number of employees in position was 38.93 lakhs on 31st March, 1996, 38.95 lakhs on 31st March,' 1997 and 38.47 lakhs on 31st March, 1998.

The number of Cabinet Ministers during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (April 1999—January 2000) was 22, 22 and 29 respectively. During 1997-98, the number had increased by 1 over the previous year (i.e. 1996-97). There was no increase during 1998-99. The number increased by 7 during 1999-2000 (April 1999—January 2000). Thus the overall increase in the number of Cabinet Ministers during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 8,

The requisite information with respect to increase in the number

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of officers serving at the Centre on the posts of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary or equivalent level posts on tenure basis, and the Central Secretariat Officers for whom tenure rules are not applicable, during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and first 10 months of 1999-2000 has been given in the following Table:

Table

Post	As on			
	1.4.97	1.4.98	1.4.99	1.2.2000
Secretary	110(38)	116(37)	137(47)	150(49)
Addl. Secretary	98(42)	106(52)	106(53)	105(46)
Joint Secretary	368(152)	400(182)	438(221)	444(234)
Director	399(96)	462(122)	477(140)	517(178)
Dy. Secretary	396(118)	411(127)	395(133)	440(148)
TOTAL	1371(446)	1495(520)	1553(594)	1656(655)

NOTE: Figures in brackets indicate equivalent level posts and are included in the total.

The information given in the above Table is exclusive of the number of posts of the level of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary in respect of various Organised Group 'A' Services / Cadres which are administered by the respective Ministry / Department and with respect to which the required information in this regard is not centrally available.

The approximate additional expenditure on account of increase in the number of Cabinet Ministers during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and first 10 months of 1999-2000 (April, 1999 to January, 2000) on account of pay and allowances was Rs. 3 lakhs, Nil and Rs. 17\50 lakhs respectively. The approximate overall additional expenditure on account of increase in the number of posts of the level of Secretary, Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Director and Deputy Secretary (mentioned in the Table above) during the years 1997-98, 1998-99

and first 10 months of 1999-2000 (April, 1999—January, 2000) was Rs. 2.70 crores, Rs. 1.59 crores and Rs. 1.76 crores respectively.

Progress in alleviating people below poverty line

*107. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over thirty per cent of the population continue to live below the poverty line and that this amounts to almost 350 million people;

(b) whether Government had listed several basic minimum services in 1996 which were literacy education, primary health and care, safe drinking water, nutritional security shelter for the poor, road connections and an effective and efficient public distribution system; and

(c) how far Government have progressed towards achieving these?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) According to the latest available estimates, 35.97% of the population or 320.4 million were living below the poverty line in 1993-94.

(b) In a conference of Chief Ministers held in July, 1996 seven Basic Services were identified for priority attention. The Services are Safe Drinking Water, Primary Health Care, Universal Primary Education, Shelter for the Poor, connectivity to all unconnected villages and habitations, Nutrition, and Streamlining Public Distribution System with a focus on the Poor. The objective of the programme was to assist the States to provide all the people living both in rural and urban areas of the country access to these seven Basic Services in a time-bound manner.

(c) The Planning Commission allocated additional Central